(a) whether Romania has invited management professionals from India to help their entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the 10th meeting of Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation held in New Delhi on 18th & 19th December, 1991, the need for intensive contacts at the levels of the institutions in the two countries, their Chambers of Commerce and commercial enterprises etc. was noted by the two countries. There was however, no specific invitation for the services of management professionals from India for helping Romanian enterprises.

Trade relation with Japan

776. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to improve trade relations with Japan;

(b) if so, what are the different items being exported to and imported from Japan; and

(c) what are the new areas identified for expansion of bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Japan is an important trade partner for India and steps for improving bilateral trade are taken by the Government on a continuing basis. These include periodic review of trade at official level, exchange of delegations, participation in international fairs in Japan, market surveys ete.

(b) and (c) Iron ore, diamods, shrimps, other ores and minerals, cotton garments chemicals and pharmaceuticals and among major Indian exports to Japan. Iron & Steel, machinery, project goods, transport equipment etc. are items among major Indian imports from Japan.

Leather, light engineering goods, gold jewellery, cat-plots, readymade garments are among areas which provide immediate possibilities for increasing exports to Japan.

Export of value added goods

777. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister had desired to export value added goods to earn more foreign exchange and give more employment; and

(b) if so. what incentives are being given and what actions are being taken to encourage value-added goods for exports?

THE MINISTR\ OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fifteen broad sectors|prodiuct groups have been identified for making special thrust in markets abroad without minimising the importance of increasing exports from other sectors. The broad approach of the Govt, is towards making export commercially viable through spreading industrial capability ensuring supply of raw materials at competitive prices, strengthening infras-tructure and simplifying the procedures, with this objective, the Govt, has introduced i package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives and eliminating substantial volume of import licensing. REP licences have been replaced by Eximscrips. Export of certain products/product groups such as value-added agriculture products, marine products, electronics, bulk drugs and for-